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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 16 | Humidity 61% Partly sunny Sensex 85,712 | Nifty 26,186 | Gold 1,30,966 | Silver 1,82,470 | Dollar 89.93 | Euro 104.78 | GBP 120.07

Latest capture and relocation orders prove final straw for Animal Birth Control centres in city that are already stretched thin due to being forced to house 'aggressive' dogs; stray sterilisation campaign in peril, they warn

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Dire straits: ABC centres only able to operate at 50% capacity due to overload

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Five NGOs running the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme in Bengaluru have written to the Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), highlighting serious operational challenges that are affecting their routine sterilisation work. Following a recent Supreme Court directive requiring states to capture and sterilise dogs from public spaces and relocate them to shelters, the GBA verbally instructed ABC centres to capture dogs, sterilise them, and accommodate them in centre kennels. The NGOs, however, warned that implementing these additional tasks would disrupt the regular functioning of the ABC programme.

Citizens for Animal Birth Control (ABC) pointed out that the SC order has raised serious concerns, noting that the GBA's directive is not in line with existing ABC rules. These rules mandate that sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination (ARV) activities be carried out daily at the district level and that centres operate at full capacity. They also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

NO GO

Chaos, desperate scenes at city airport as IndiGo flight disruptions continue

PAGE 9

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New age cooking solution

All you need to know about air fryers and how to use them

With modern problems, one needs a modern solution! Air fryers have proven to be the new age solution to cooking healthily.

When it comes to frying food items, a lot of oil is used which can cause health problems. The emergence of air fryers has removed all those concerns as it requires no use of oil or any other substitute for cooking fried food. The appliance uses hot air circulation and cooks the food from different angles once it is switched on. The cooking process is much healthier.

If you are a new user and want to know the benefits of the air fryer and what could you possibly cook as a trial dish, then don't worry, we have got you covered.

Benefits Of Air Fryer

Air fryers are very time efficient. Any food item can be cooked easily by just placing the food inside and setting a timer. The heat blown from all angles cooks the food easily and in a shorter time period.

It is also easier to clean as all you have to do is wipe the parts with a damp cloth.

If you are a picky vegetable eater, then the fryer can make it fun for you by making the vegetable extra-crisp, which you can munch on just like any other snack.

Absolutely no oil is needed to cook any food item, which is an added health benefit, so you can eat without worrying about the food being too oily.

How To Cook Homemade French Fries In An Air Fryer

Cut up a potato in a vertical manner, keeping the width to be slightly slim or chunky as preferred.

Add salt and mix it well with your hands.

Place it in the air fryer drawer and avoid overlapping the potato slices and cook them, turning it to the other side halfway through until golden brown and crisp.

Cook it for 14-16 minutes and serve it on a plate. Sprinkle salt or any other flavoured spice as preferred.

—Femina

How air fryer is different from convection oven

Air fryer vs convection oven, the debate never settles. While the oven has existed for a long time, air fryers are new to the block. Those who prefer traditional style of cooking are more comfortable and well-adjusted with using an oven while the air fryer offers different recipes and less cooking time. While both perform the same function, the main difference lies in the size and heating technology. No matter what your thoughts are on each of these, let's have an unbiased look at the features to know the difference between the two.

Heating: Convection oven uses a fan (similar to that in an air fryer) to disperse the heat generated from either gas or electric elements. However, an air fryer uses the rapid air technology to generate heat. In an air fryer, the heat comes from the top whereas in the oven, it comes from both top and bottom.

Fan Size: The fan in an air fryer is larger and operates faster than that in a convection oven. This means quick dispersion of heat and lesser cooking time.

Size: Air fryer is a countertop appliance and is smaller in size as compared to a convection oven. The smaller size and countertop feature make the appliance portable, enabling faster cooking by positioning food closer to the heating element.

Convection Oven VS Air Fryer

Air fryer is small in size and takes up less space. It enables faster cooking and the perforated basket or tray allows dripping of excess fat and oil. Therefore, it's also a healthy food-cooking option. You don't have to heat one big appliance to cook, it's faster and saves time.

However, an oven allows you to cook large quantities of food in one go. You can stack food as the heat will be equally dispersed. You don't have to toss food as the heat comes from both the sides.

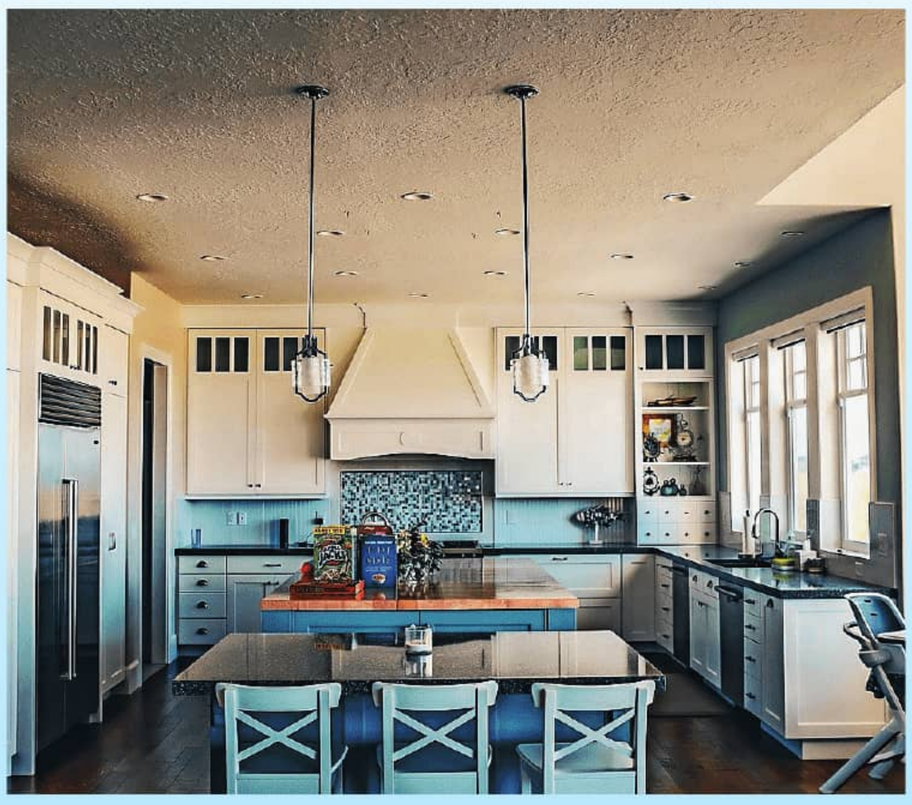
5 Common Habits That Are Bad For Kitchen Appliances

After spending a bomb on kitchen appliances, it can be disheartening to see them not working efficiently or as they're supposed to. But have you ever thought that the way you use these appliances might be responsible for them breaking down? Avoid these mistakes and treat your kitchen appliances right!

Using Soap To Clean Burners

A microwave, OTG, or gas oven needs regular cleaning, especially after you've used it to cook foods that were spluttering inside. Oils and food particles can fly in all directions and anchor themselves to the inside walls. Not cleaning these causes grime to build-up over time, reducing the efficiency of your appliance. Grime build-up can also damage the heating coils.

After you're done cooking and the oven has cooled down, get cleaning the inside walls using a soft cloth or sponge dampened in water mixed with mild dishwashing liquid or vinegar.



Sharp Objects In The Dishwasher

Sharp objects in the dishwasher can cause dinges in the racks. Knives and such items can also cause nicks in the vinyl coating, which will lead to rusting in the future.

Prevent damages by avoiding placing knives, forks, and other sharp objects in your dishwasher.

Metal Objects In The Washing Machine

Do you always forget your keys and coins in your pant or shirt pockets and find them after the clothes have gone for a spin in the washing machine? Loose metal objects in the washing machine can jam into nooks and crannies, leading to a jam and possibly expensive repairs. Metal objects can also cause damage to the drum itself.

Make sure to check all pockets before putting your clothes into the washing machine.

Overfilling The Fridge

When you overfill your fridge and/or freezer, you obstruct the free flow of air. Because there's more food in the fridge to keep cool, you end up overtaxing the condenser, which can eventually lead to complete burnout.

Note that a full fridge is more efficient than an empty one, but that doesn't give you the go-ahead to overfill it. Make sure you store items in an organised way and be sure to do away with expired items regularly.

—Femina

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THINGS TO DO

01 Literary world

Bangalore Literature Festival, the city's flagship literary event, is all set for a spectacular fourteenth edition. The two-day event will feature a host of authors and speakers, including renowned novelists and fiction writers. **Where: Freedom Park; When: Dec 6 and 7, 9 am onwards**

02 Theatre chronicles

As part of the Bengaluru Theatre Festival Season 2, Naseeruddin Shah will be starring in 'Einstein', a deeply moving portrayal of the genius physicist.. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: December 6, 7 pm**

03 Artistic lens

'Beauty Isn't the Point: A Collection of Non-Objective Works', a solo exhibition featuring Chennai-based artist RB Murari's non-objective abstract works, focuses on emotional exploration and inner experience through form, color, rhythm, and silence. **Where: Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: December 8 to 14, 10 am onwards**

04 Timeless music

Re: Sound by Jet ALive featuring Lucky Ali will be taking the audience on a soulful journey, celebrating music that has defined generations. From nostalgic classics to new age soundscape, experience the timeless charm of a musical icon, live on stage. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: Dec 6, 7 pm**

05 Melodious evening

The Nadathur Foundation is organising the 4th edition of 'Nada Sambhrama', a concert series dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rich tradition of Indian classical music. **Where: Mangala Mandapa Auditorium, Jayanagar; When: December 6, 6.30 pm**

06 Ready, set, action

As part of the Bengaluru Theatre Festival Season 2, Vinay Pathak will be starring in 'Nothing Like Lear', directed by Rajat Kapoor, a poignant and humorous take inspired by Shakespeare's classic. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: December 6, 7 pm**

Unlimited launches winter jacket collection; Jackets starting at ₹499

Unlimited has launched its Winterwear & Jacket Collection, with prices starting at Rs 499, and kids' jackets from Rs 299. The collection includes over 10,000 jackets for men, women, and kids. There are options for every occasion—campus, outings with friends, weddings, or evening hangouts. Styles include denim, chester, lightweight jackets with pockets, bomber jackets, layered jackets, cotton jackets, multi-pocket jackets, varsity jackets, parkas, rain jackets, biker jackets, blazers, and dinner jackets. Classics like quilted jackets, fleece, puffers, and windbreakers, as well as various styles in kids' jackets are also included. **— BMB**

Ceramic treasures

The fourth edition of the Bengaluru Potters Market opened today at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, inaugurated by distinguished artist Balan Nambiar. The event brings together over 30 studio potters from across India, offering visitors an inspiring display of sculptural works, functional tableware, ceramic jewelry, home décor, and unique collectible pieces. This year, the market expands its artistic footprint with two curated gallery shows, featuring works by senior ceramic artists and contemporary studio potters. With products starting from Rs 500, the Bengaluru Potters Market continues to make handmade ceramics accessible while providing a vibrant platform for studio potters to connect with Bengaluru's community of art lovers, craft enthusiasts, and supporters of handmade excellence. The event is open to all from December 5 to 7, 2025, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Snake season slithers in with winter chill

Experts say snakes are cold-blooded, and when temperatures drop they seek spaces offering warmth to survive, with sightings increasing for species like Russell's vipers due to breeding season at same time

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With Bengaluru's winter chill setting in, snake rescuers are reporting a spike in calls involving Russell's vipers. Residents may notice more sightings of the venomous species in the coming weeks, as rescuers point out that the vipers are typically more visible during their breeding season and are highly active at night, being a nocturnal species.

Experts clarify that snakes do not "come out more" during winter, instead, their search for warmth makes them more visible to people. A drop in temperature forces snakes to seek warmer microhabitats, often bringing them closer to human spaces.

PfA Wildlife Hospital, Bengaluru, in collaboration with ARAV Mumbai, successfully conducted a free public webinar titled 'Snake Identification: Understanding Common Species' on December 2, 2025. The webinar aimed to strengthen public awareness on safe human–snake coexistence, particularly as India continues to record nearly 64,000 snakebite cases every year, with approximately 70 per cent of human–wildlife conflict incidents involving snakes.

Col Dr Navaz Shariff, General Manager & Chief Wildlife Veterinarian, PfA Wildlife Hospital, Bengaluru, noted that rescue calls tend to increase during the winter months. He explained that snakes are cold-blooded animals, and when temperatures drop, they search for warm spaces to survive. "As a result, they may enter homes, vehicle engine compartments, warm corners, wood piles, or scrap collections, not to seek confrontation, but simply warmth and safety. Without understanding this behaviour, people may panic, which increases the risk of harm to both the animal and humans," said Col Shariff.

Russell's vipers are highly venomous and active mainly at night, being primarily nocturnal

Veterinarian warns citizens to keep distance, call trained rescuers or authorities, and never attempt handling snakes themselves

Over the last four years, PfA rescue data shows how human activity, seasonal changes, and environmental disruption influence snake encounters. The numbers recorded are: 828 rescues in 2022, 791 in 2023, 1,154 in 2024, and 865 in 2025. Across these rescues, several species were commonly found. The spectacled cobra remains the most rescued species with a total of 7,586 admissions, followed by the Indian rat snake with 3,524 rescues. "We have also assisted 1,018 Russell's vipers, 137 sand boas, and 27 Indian rock pythons," said Col Shariff.

Snake rescuer Nagabhushana said, "Russell's vipers are venomous; their sightings naturally increase during the breeding season, especially at night, because they are a strictly nocturnal species. They are usually found breeding during November and December." He explained that during winter most snakes become less active, though they may still seek out warmer pockets near debris, compost, or areas with heavy rat activity. "Wherever there are rats, snakes will follow, because that is their primary food source," he said.

Safety first

Col Shariff pointed out that if one encounters a snake, the best response is calm observation rather than reaction. "Do not attempt to hit, push, poke, or provoke the animal. Avoid trying to take selfies or handling it yourself, as this is dangerous and unnecessary. Instead, give the snake space to move away naturally and call a trained rescuer or a recognised rescue centre like PfA." He advised that to minimise future encounters, residents should keep surroundings clean, clear stored scrap or clutter, seal small openings in buildings, and ensure outdoor vegetation is trimmed.

Peaceful coexistence

Speaking of its importance, Col Shariff noted that snakes play an invaluable role in controlling rodent populations and maintaining ecological balance. He further emphasised that with awareness, compassionate handling, and responsible coexistence, humans and snakes can be able to share space safely, thereby reducing conflict and protecting a species vital to the environment.

Police probe claim of Aryan Khan's obscene gesture

Police have begun investigating an incident involving Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan, who allegedly displayed obscene behaviour in the city recently. Home Minister G Parameshwar confirmed that the Bengaluru Police Commissionerate is looking into the matter, and based on the report, the next course of action will be decided.

Aryan Khan allegedly displayed obscene behaviour towards fans at a pub in the city, publicly showing the middle finger in an incident that has now gone viral on social media. The actor visited Bengaluru on November 28, for a private event and was present at a pub within the Ashoknagar police jurisdiction. A large number of fans had gathered to catch a glimpse of him. Standing on the balcony, Aryan

Aryan Khan was in Bengaluru on November 28 and had visited a pub

Khan reportedly made an obscene gesture towards the fans outside, which was captured on video by several onlookers. The video has since circulated widely, prompting criticism online. Netizens have expressed concern over the actor's behaviour, noting that if ordinary citizens had behaved similarly, strict legal action would have been taken.

The incident has also raised questions about law enforcement at the time, with social media users asking why the police did not intervene immediately despite the public nature of the act. Notably, Aryan Khan was reportedly accompanied by other prominent individuals, including the sons of a state minister and a legislator.

Authorities have confirmed that the matter is under active investigation, and any further action against Aryan Khan will be determined based on the findings of the police report. Public and online reaction continues to generate debate over accountability and appropriate measures in cases involving celebrities engaging in such behaviour in public spaces. **–BMB**

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Campus fury as 352 trees face axe for new architecture hub

Activists slam plans to clear extensive greenery at Jnanabharathi, urging officials to revive unused plots instead of erasing vital woodland

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If the latest proposal to establish a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence by the Council of Architecture, New Delhi, is anything to go by, Bangalore University's Jnanabharathi campus appears set to become a destination for government buildings and offices rather than a space focused on research facilities for students. The Tree Officer and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), issued a public notice on November 27, regarding the proposal to cut 352 trees for the construction of the Centre of Excellence.

This is not the first time the GBA has issued a notice for felling trees on the Jnanabharathi campus. The authority had previously granted permission to cut 138 trees for the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme. A Division Bench of the High Court stayed the felling while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Swayam Jagruti Seva Trust.

Environmentalists are now opposing the proposed tree felling for the Council of Architecture's Centre of Excellence. They argue that authorities should make use of vacant land or existing unused structures instead of axing well-grown trees.

"Bangalore University has lost many acres to various

The map of Jananabharathi campus and the bio parks

Environmental groups challenge the proposal after authorities revealed intentions to remove hundreds of mature trees for a proposed Centre of Excellence

institutions. The proposed Centre of Excellence will affect Bio-Forest No 12. The authorities concerned must prioritise research facilities for university students rather than allocating land on the Jnanabharathi premises," said Renuka Prasad, an environmentalist.

Calling on the GBA Forest Department to refuse permission for tree cutting, Parvathi Srirama, General Secretary of People for Environment, said she had already contacted the Deputy Conservator of Forests. "I am not satisfied with the DCF's suggestion to send objections individually instead of submitting a petition signed by the public opposing the cutting of trees on the campus," she said.

Expressing concern about the loss of mature trees, Ajay Kumar C, President of Swayam Jagruti Seva Trust, said the proposed plan would harm a variety of species on the campus. "We have already filed a PIL in the High Court against tree cutting for the PM-USHA scheme. We oppose cutting trees for the proposed Centre of Excellence," he stated.

The public notice issued by the GBA's Deputy Conservator of Forests set a 10-day deadline for the public to submit suggestions and objections.

Meanwhile, Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Jayakara Shetty M said the land had been allotted before he assumed office. "I will look into the matter if the proposal comes to my notice," he said.

"Many of the buildings on this campus are old and clearly in need of repair. If new facilities are required, the university should focus on redeveloping outdated structures rather than cutting down trees. This campus retains one of the few remaining green covers in the area, serving as an essential space for students and athletes who train nearby. A state-of-the-art college or museum can easily be built by redeveloping existing buildings, but trees should always be the last consideration for removal," said environmentalist Vinod Jacob.

Fatal jump disrupts purple line

A 39-year-old man died Friday morning after allegedly jumping onto the tracks at Kengeri metro station, disrupting Bengaluru's Purple Line during peak hours. The deceased, Shantana Gowda Patil from Vijayapura district, jumped moments before a train arrived around 8.15 am, BMRCL said. Security cut power immediately, but Patil was trapped and later taken to Rajarajeshwari Medical College Hospital for post-mortem. Services between Mysuru Road and Challaghatta were suspended from 8.30 am.

Police are investigating, reviewing CCTV, and registering an unnatural death case. Normal operations resumed by 9.40 am.

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Pollution forces urgent restoration of water bodies

Growing contamination in rural water bodies accelerating coordinated response combining DPR preparation, STP expansion, and bacterial ecosystem treatment for sustainable restoration

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Similar to the issues plaguing lakes in urban areas, water bodies in rural Bengaluru are suffering as well. Pollution caused by unchecked garbage dumping and the entry of untreated sewage into these lakes has prompted the Minor Irrigation Department, along with the Karnataka Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the respective Gram Panchayats, to initiate rejuvenation efforts.

The agencies are currently rejuvenating Nagarkere, Chikka Tumkur, Dodda Tumkur, and Veerapura lakes in rural Bengaluru, and some of them are being purified with the help of eco-friendly bacteria on an experimental basis. The work of shifting the underground sewerage system pipeline from Nagarakere Lake, located on the outskirts of Bengaluru in Doddaballapur, is underway and has reached 15% completion. According to the Doddaballapur City Municipal Council, the UGD pipeline work is scheduled to be completed before May 2026.

For the construction of a sewage treatment plant, a Detailed Project Report amounting to Rs 57.67 crore will soon be submitted to the State Government for approval. Additionally, under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, Rs 6 crore has been allocated for the comprehensive development of Nagarakere Lake, and the DPR for this work is currently being prepared. Upon approval, lake development activities will be taken up accordingly.

Interim water quality measures implemented pending new STP

At Chikka Tumakuru Lake, the municipal body is treating water from the existing sewage treatment plant to ensure that the water quality meets the minimum criteria specified by the KSPCB

According to the Minor Irrigation Department, an estimate for the restoration of Nagarakere Lake has already been submitted, and the City Municipal Council, Doddaballapur, is in the process of shifting the UGD line from the tank bed to prevent sewage from entering the lake. Once the DPR for rejuvenation under CSR funding is approved, the Minor Irrigation Department will proceed with the development work.

At Chikka Tumakuru Lake, the municipal body is treating water from the existing sewage treatment plant to ensure that the water quality meets the minimum criteria specified by the KSPCB. Pending the establishment of a new STP, interim measures are being implemented at the existing facility to ensure that treated water meets the required standards, according to an update submitted by Doddaballapur CMC to the National Green Tribunal.

An eco-friendly method using a bacteria micro biome, generally recognied as safe, has also been introduced to treat sewage water under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions. These bacteria are considered potential probiotics—nontoxic and non-pathogenic. After the completion of the treatment process, the bacteria mature and die without releasing any harmful substances.

The Minor Irrigation Department has also submitted an estimate for the restoration of Dodda Tumakuru Lake, and work will commence once approval is granted.

No more assurances, ASHA workers want action now

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After 11 months of waiting and many rounds of appeals, meetings, and assurances, Karnataka's 42,000 ASHA workers say they have reached a breaking point. Despite a clear promise made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in January 2025 to increase their monthly earnings, the government has still not issued any formal order. Frustrated by the long delay and rising financial hardship, the workers have now decided to intensify their agitation.

They argue that while they continue to shoulder critical healthcare duties across urban and rural Karnataka, often working far beyond designated hours, the government has failed to deliver even the minimum guaranteed income it had committed. With no alternative left, ASHA workers are preparing for a large-scale protest at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on December 10, 2025, pressing for immediate implementation of their long-pending demands.

"From maternal health to epidemic surveys to immunisation drives, we are doing the government's work, yet we are forced to fight every single year for basic compensation," said Nagalakshmi, State President, AIUTUC ASHA Union.

File photo of a protest by ASHA workers to raise the issue of their long-pending demands

Workers also highlight a persistent issue: their activities uploaded on the official portal often receive only partial approval across PHC, taluk, district, and state levels, resulting in incentive payments that are "far less than the work done".

On January 7, 2025, nearly 40,000 ASHA workers held a four-day-and-night protest at Bengaluru's Freedom Park. CM Siddaramaiah personally met the union leaders on the fourth day.

The ASHA workers are demanding a fixed monthly honorarium of ₹15,000 by combining central incentives and state payments; immediate implementation of the State Government's promised ₹10,000 monthly guarantee from April 2025, along with the additional ₹1,000 hike granted this year to Anganwadi and mid-day meal workers; release of the Central Government's enhanced ₹1,500 incentive without delay; continuation of ASHA facilitators (Sugamakars) with proper wages, including payment of the pending ₹1,500 monthly increase for one full year; introduction of a retirement benefit on the lines of the West Bengal model for retired ASHA workers; and an additional ₹2,000 honorarium increase for all urban ASHA workers. With the winter session underway in Belagavi, the union says the time for assurances is over. "We want written orders, not verbal promises. If the government truly respects ASHA workers, let it show in action during the Assembly session," Nagalakshmi said.

Workers plan protest at Suvarna Soudha on Dec 10 as govt fails to deliver even minimum guaranteed income it had committed to implement

"We have served the people of Karnataka for nearly two decades. A dignified income is not a favour; it is our right," said Somashekar.

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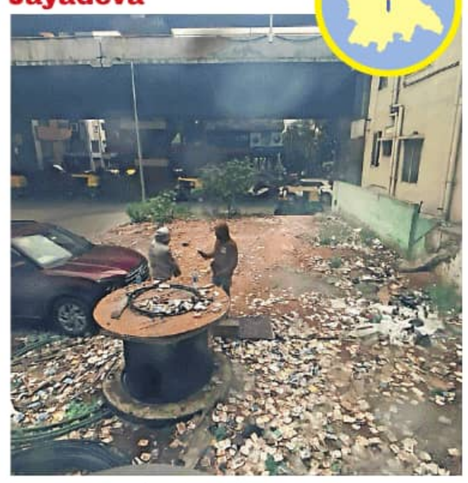
Blocked pathway
TCM Royan Road

Poorly maintained roads and blocked footpath near the Bangalore Railway Parcel Office on TCM Royan Road are severely inconvenienced pedestrians.

Night nuisance
Jayadeva



A vacant site beside the Jayadeva Hospital Metro Station is being misused as a late-night liquor spot, causing serious disturbance to nearby residents.

Garbage blockade
Avenue Road

Appaji Rao Lane at CT Street Cross near Avenue Road remains blocked and littered with garbage, leading to persistent traffic congestion.

Investors eye agricultural land boom

Demand for farmland across India is rising as investors seek stable, long-term returns amid volatile financial markets. Increasing recognition of agriculture as a credible asset class, coupled with supportive government policies and growing interest in organic and high-yield crops, has made farmland an attractive investment option. Experts point out that unlike conventional real estate, farmland offers dual benefits: potential appreciation in land value and recurring income through leasing or cultivation. "Investors are realising the value of agricultural land not just for farming but as a hedge against inflation and market volatility," says Ramesh Kumar, a realtor. With urban buyers exploring peri-urban belts and well-irrigated regions, interest is expanding beyond traditional farming states. Analysts expect this trend to continue, driving prices up and positioning farmland as a strategic investment for both institutional and individual investors. **–BMB**

Devanahalli real estate sees frenzy

North Bengaluru, particularly the fast-developing Devanahalli region, is emerging as a preferred destination for property buyers due to proximity to the airport, expanding IT hubs, and upcoming expressways. Developers and realtors report rising interest from end-users and investors seeking long-term appreciation, with residential and commercial projects receiving steady inquiries. "The airport expansion and infrastructure corridors are creating immense value here," says Anuj M, senior realtor. Higher booking rates and premium pricing for plots, apartments, villas, and gated communities reflect the growing demand. Families and NRIs are especially attracted, while investors eye potential rental yields and future growth. **–BMB**

Repo rate cut boosts housing market

The Reserve Bank of India's 25-basis-point repo rate cut has been welcomed as a timely boost for the real estate sector, particularly benefiting affordable and mid-income homebuyers. The reduction is expected to accelerate buying decisions and revive demand. "The rate cut is a distinct positive for the sector, especially for buyers sensitive to interest rate fluctuations," said Anuj Puri, Chairman of ANAROCK Group. With housing prices in major cities rising nearly 10% this year, the move encourages postponed purchases and improves market sentiment. Analysts note that the real impact depends on how quickly banks pass on the benefit. A surge in sales is anticipated through early 2026 if lending rates drop accordingly. Experts expect affordable and mid-segment housing to benefit, while luxury homes continue driving overall growth. **–BMB**

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Rental reforms boost tenant protection

The Union government plans to introduce Rental Regulations–2025, bringing major reforms for residential and commercial properties. All rental agreements must now be completed online within 60 days of occupancy; handwritten contracts will no longer be valid, with delays attracting a minimum ₹5,000 penalty. Security deposits are capped at two months' rent for homes and six months for commercial spaces. Landlords can revise rent only once a year with 90-day notice. Evictions without due process are prohibited and can occur only via rental tribunals. Tenants may carry out repairs after 30 days if landlords fail to act. States are advised to adopt this digital-first system. **–BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

MAJESTY MEETS RAINBOW

Our reader shares a stunning image of Bengaluru's majestic Vidhana Soudha glowing under golden light, as a delicate rainbow arcs across the stormy sky. The timeless architecture and dramatic clouds come together in a rare, serene moment—capturing the city's charm in a single frame.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sateesh N**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Integrated push launched to prevent sewage and revive the K–100 waterway

Officials order a detailed action plan, enhanced treatment systems, and vigilant monitoring to ensure

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to prepare a detailed, integrated plan to completely prevent sewage from entering the K–100 Urban Waterway, a vital 9.2-kilometre canal running from KR Market to Bellandur Lake along the Koramangala Valley. During an inspection from Anepalya Junction to Shantinagar Bus Stand, it was found that while most stretches have controlled sewage inflow, a few problematic points persist. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been instructed to immediately survey these locations and submit a comprehensive remedial plan.

Rao stressed the importance of keeping the waterway clean and accessible, highlighting the need for regular upkeep of pedestrian paths and continuous silt removal. Maintaining hygienic conditions, he said, is crucial to sustaining the canal's redevelopment and preventing future contamination.

To treat wastewater, a 5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) near Kumbaragudi has begun operations, treating stormwater drain effluents and releasing purified water into the canal for long-term ecological stability. Nature-based solutions such as concrete rings planted with pollutant-absorbing species help filter contaminants before water flows downstream. A 15 MLD Intermediate Sewage Pumping Station (ISPS) has also been constructed to block untreated sewage, with operations expected to begin within a month. CCTV cameras will be installed at critical points to deter illegal dumping and raise awareness among local residents.

Revamped K–100 waterway nears completion with upgrades and strict monitoring

Officials said the project is nearly 90% complete, having delivered major upgrades including diversion of 100 MLD of sewage and industrial waste, 12.5 km of new sewer lines, 6.03 km of upgraded lines and 765 new property connections. Desilting has been carried out in 27,896 manholes, and 12,602 illegal stormwater connections have been removed, along with the installation of 15 silt traps.

Public enhancements include parks, viewing balconies, pedestrian bridges, renovated vehicle bridges and landscaped pathways. With 200 metres of walkway pending, officials said strict monitoring and timely completion will help transform the K–100 into a sustainable, citizen-friendly corridor.

— BMB

Ongoing STP operations, intermediate pumping stations and ecological interventions are strengthening long-term efforts to prevent untreated sewage from entering the canal

DID YOU KNOW?

The year's final supermoon is set to light up the December sky, offering skywatchers a bright and captivating lunar display. The moon travels around the Earth in an elliptical orbit, which means its distance from our planet constantly changes. When a full moon occurs at the point where it is closest to Earth, it becomes a supermoon — appearing up to 14% larger and nearly 30% brighter than the faintest full moon of the year, according to NASA. Supermoons typically arrive in clusters several times a year, taking advantage of this orbital "sweet spot." Thursday night's show marks the last in a trio of consecutive supermoons for 2025. The phenomenon is easily visible to the naked eye, though the size difference can be subtle. Interestingly, even without a supermoon, the moon often appears bigger when it sits near the horizon — a visual trick known as the moon illusion. Experts still aren't entirely sure why this happens, but the effect becomes slightly more striking during a supermoon, noted William Alston, an astronomer at the University of Hertfordshire. While tides may rise a bit higher during a supermoon, the impact remains minimal. — AP

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Shocking twist in Imran Khan's sister's Asim Munir yearns for India–Pakistan war claim

Fact: Sky News has confirmed the video is a deepfake. Journalist Yalda Hakim clarified on social media that no such discussion took place and described the circulating clip as completely fabricated. The network also flagged the entire video as fake, warning viewers not to believe it.
Claim: A viral video shows Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan claiming Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir "wants war with India," labelling him a radical Islamist and contrasting his alleged stance with Imran Khan's supposed attempts to befriend India and even the BJP. The clip appears to be from a Sky News interview.

A video surfaced on Wednesday in which jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan is heard alleging that the country's army chief, Asim Munir, "yearns for a war with India." The clip, falsely presented as part of The World with Yalda Hakim on Sky News, went viral before being debunked by the broadcaster. Aleema, one of Imran Khan's three sisters, appeared to accuse Munir of radical Islamist ideology while portraying her brother as someone who tried to build ties with India.

"This is terrifying — a deepfake of my interview with Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, is circulating. It falsely claims we discussed the Pakistan-India war earlier this year. We did NOT. This clip is completely fake," Hakim wrote on X (formerly Twitter), stressing that the interview never occurred.

What did the deepfake claim?

In the fabricated clip, the interviewer is heard asking Aleema about a supposed India–Pakistan war in May. The deepfake version of Aleema then criticises Munir, describing him as "a radicalised Islamist" whose alleged ideology pushes him toward conflict. The video falsely portrays her saying that Imran Khan is a "pure liberal" who always sought friendship with India and even the BJP. It further suggests she appealed to Western nations to help free her brother, whom she called an "asset". When asked if Imran Khan would ever be released, the deepfake version of Aleema claims Pakistani authorities are isolating him to "suppress the people of Pakistan," arguing that he represents a vast majority of the country.

Imran Khan death rumours

Separately, rumours about Imran Khan's health have circulated online. On Tuesday, his sister Uzma Khanum visited him in Adiala Jail and declared he was "perfectly fine," though she said he complained of "mental torture." According to Uzma, he remains confined to his room for most of the day with limited outdoor time and no contact with others. The meeting lasted around 30 minutes. Concerns had grown amid claims that the family had been denied access to him for over a month.

Imran Khan has been jailed since August 2023 after convictions in multiple cases and continues to be held in Adiala Jail.

Imran Khan vs Asim Munir

Tensions between the two date back to 2019, when Munir was removed as ISI chief just eight months into his tenure—reportedly after he sought to probe corruption allegations involving Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi. The army provided no explanation for the sudden reshuffle.

— ET Online

Forum slams govt's plan to shut over 25,000 schools

Community school committees urge Karnataka to halt closure of 25,000 government schools, stressing rural children's access and Right to Education concerns

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The Karnataka State Coordination Forum of School Development and Monitoring Committees opposed the state government's plan to close 25,683 government schools on the pretext of opening one public school for each gram panchayat and also demanded the government cancel its plan to close government schools in the state. The members of School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) from 17 districts gathered in Bengaluru on December 4 to discuss the proposed school mergers and the measures needed to implement the Right to Education Act effectively.

Forum adviser Niranjan Aradhya said the government had already shut around 3,200 schools since 2013–14. "There were 49,955 government schools in the state during the year 2013–14. The number has come down to 46,755 in 2023. If the government goes ahead with its plan of having one public school for each gram panchayat, more than 25,000 government schools will be closed, thus depriving children in rural areas of access to education," he warned, adding that such a drastic move could further widen existing educational inequalities.

The meeting also urged the government to introduce the State Education Policy in the forthcoming Assembly session in Belagavi and initiate steps for its effective implementation. The forum stressed the need to recognise model SDMCs, document

Members stressed that policy reforms and community-led monitoring are essential to protect government schools and enhance children's educational opportunities statewide

their success stories and publish them widely to encourage community-driven school development. It further demanded that the government ensure proper implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009 by allocating adequate funds and filling vacant teacher posts without delay.

Child rights activist Nagasimha G Rao termed the SDMC forum's letter to the government a crucial intervention made in the best interests of children. He said SDMCs, functioning in every school across the state, play a vital role in promoting community participation in school governance. "The Education Department is duty-bound to hold prior consultations with SDMC members, parents and even children before taking major decisions related to schools. Unfortunately, this is not being followed. The department must consider the recommendations submitted by the SDMC Coordination Forum and take immediate steps to protect and strengthen children's fundamental Right to Education," he said.

Dr Thippeswamy K T, a member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), said the government must ensure that basic infrastructure in rural government schools is improved and maintained. He added that SDMCs, in coordination with local bodies,

SDMCs from 17 districts unite in B'luru to oppose plan to shut thousands of schools, warning it will deny rural children education; demand stronger policies and infrastructure

should continue to play an active role in the development of schools in their regions to ensure learning environments remain safe and functional.

KSCPCR chairman Shashidhar Kosambe reiterated the commission's opposition to school closures, asserting that no child should be denied the right to education. "The government's decisions should not adversely affect children," he said, urging the state to reconsider its approach to school consolidation and prioritise long-term educational access.

Flight Mayhem: Day 2

Sanitary pads to wedding hiccups: Passengers bear it all

Amidst IndiGo flight fiasco carrying on, newly married couple scheduled to fly in for their reception, grounded by endless delays, join function virtually

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Kempegowda International Airport descended into chaos on Friday as hundreds of passengers were stranded, anxiously awaiting flights that never took off. Tensions ran high when a father was seen arguing with staff, urgently requesting sanitary pads for his daughter and imploring for assistance as none was forthcoming. In another distressing incident, a woman carrying the ashes of her late father was unable to travel to her destination. While Indigo staff attempted to reassure passengers about ticket refunds, many frustrated travellers insisted they did not want a refund, but rather the funds needed to book alternative flights to reach their destinations. Commuters also questioned why they had not received prior notification of the cancellations, noting that a timely alert could have spared them the unnecessary trip to the airport.

File photo of passengers waiting at IndiGo ticketing kiosks at Kempegowda International Airport

Online reception without bride and groom

Among the many passengers affected was a newlywed couple whose reception was set to take place in Hubballi. What unfolded was a scene straight out of a modern-day wedding drama. With the bride and groom stranded nearly 1,000 km away, the reception in Hubballi went ahead—without them. In a rare and unexpected twist, the bride's parents took the couple's seats on stage and performed the traditional rituals, while the actual bride and groom joined in virtually from Bhubaneswar, all dressed up and ready.

How it all unfolded

Medha Ksheerasagar of Hubballi and Sangam Das of Bhubaneswar, both software engineers working in Bengaluru, were married on November 23 in Bhubaneswar. A grand reception was planned for December 3 in Hubballi, and families from both sides had already arrived. The couple was scheduled to fly from Bhubaneswar to Bengaluru and onward to Hubballi on December 2. Some relatives were routed via Mumbai. But starting at 9 am, IndiGo staff kept announcing delay after delay—stretching for nearly 20 hours. Finally, around dawn on December 3, the flight was abruptly cancelled. Stranded with no alternate travel options, the couple and their close family remained stuck in Bhubaneswar, while relatives in Hubballi waited anxiously at a fully prepared venue. With the hall booked, the feast arranged, and guests present, the bride's parents decided the event must go on. They sat on the stage meant for the newlyweds and completed the rituals as the couple watched and participated live through video conferencing. Anil Kumar Ksheerasagar, the bride's father, said that after a long wait, they were told that the flights were cancelled, leaving no choice but for the reception to be held online.

Guests offered their blessings to the couple virtually, handed over gifts to the bride's parents, and carried on with the celebrations. The couple, too, received blessings from Hubballi relatives through the screen. Families expressed disappointment with the airline for not informing them earlier. They believe a timely alert could have allowed alternate arrangements and prevented the unusual situation of a reception without the couple.

Air travel across India remained in chaos for a fourth day as IndiGo cancelled around 500 flights, stranding thousands. Mumbai saw 104 cancellations, Bengaluru 102, and Hyderabad 92. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi blamed the "IndiGo fiasco" on the government's monopoly model, demanding fair competition. Parliament has taken note, and Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu said services should normalise within three days, with eased duty norms and a high-level inquiry underway to determine causes and accountability.

Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu says services should normalise within three days, with high-level inquiry underway to determine causes and accountability

First KFD canine squad graduates

The first batch of the Karnataka Forest Department's canine squad to detect forest crimes has finally graduated after completing one year of rigorous training in detecting forest crimes.

The squad, consisting of 10 female dogs of Belgian Malinois breed, is now stationed at all five tiger reserves in Karnataka. A squad of two dogs at each reserve will detect various kinds of forest and wildlife crime, including detecting and pursuing offenders.

"The training got over on December 1, and the dogs are now stationed at their respective tiger reserves. They will safeguard the reserves from poachers," said S Prabhakaran, director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The dogs were trained at the department's newly established training centre in Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The first-of-its-kind training centre was created in December last year and has 12 kennels for tracker dogs.

After the centre was created, the department brought in 10 Belgian Malinois breed puppies that were handled by 20 staff, while they underwent a year-long training. The training centre is expected to receive its next set of dogs for training soon. **–BMB**

Construction at wildlife park flagged

Green Lives Shivamogga Trust has raised concerns about the construction of a retaining wall and widening of road by PWD on State Highway 52 inside Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, alleging the work is illegal.

The trust has written to the Central Environment Ministry, stating that the Kudremukh Wildlife Division of the Karnataka Forest Department is acting in violation of the spirit and mandate of the Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, and Environment Protection Act.

In the written complaint, the trust has mentioned that the construction of a retaining wall and widening of the road are being misrepresented as 'repairs and construction of retaining wall for the protection of slope' by the Department. This ongoing activity threatens one of the most ecologically sensitive wildlife corridors in the Western Ghats.

The trust has claimed that current activities — road widening, excavation, heavy machinery use, and wall construction — serve no purpose for wildlife improvement, lack legal sanction, and require mandatory Wildlife Clearance (WLPA) and Forest Clearance (FCA), both of which are absent. **–BMB**

'Long-term caging can cause illness, death'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stressed that, as taxpayers, it is the responsibility of municipal corporations to keep the city free from rabies. They questioned where suspected rabies cases would be housed for observation if ABC centres were already full of "aggressive" dogs, many of which have not actually bitten anyone, or dogs captured from establishments.

They disclosed that the current figures illustrate the challenge: Yelahanka centre, the city's largest with 100 kennels, is currently housing close to 65 aggressive dogs; Dasarahalli and RR Nagar centres have 14–15 each; and the South and West zones together have approximately 70 dogs. All ABC centres are reportedly operating at only 50% capacity. Citizens warned that forcing centres to accommodate additional dogs from establishments would effectively disrupt the ABC programme, despite the Supreme Court never directing corporations to halt sterilisation work. The ABC rules continue to mandate routine sterilisation and vaccination without compromise.

Dr. Akshay Prakash, Founder of Sarvodaya Sevabhavi Samstha, said, "Our ABC operations are facing severe disruptions due to kennel overflow and poor segregation, delaying the catch–release cycle. Staff are overstretched, operations have slowed, and community complaints are rising. With the current shortage of kennels, adding more dogs will force us to halt ABC activities altogether as our capacity is already overstretched. The recent Supreme Court order adds further burdens: we now need more manpower for long-term care, additional vehicles, and catching staff, resources that will remain underutilised and are difficult to maintain."

He added that proper observation and quarantine for communicable diseases require isolation facilities, which their centre currently lacks. "Long-term caging in limited space could lead to health issues or even unexplained dog deaths, all of which fall on the ABC centres. And moreover when we had taken up ABC ARV work we had not signed for holding dogs, which they are trying to impose on us."

A representation made to Chief Secretary Dr Shalini Rajneesh by South Bengaluru Cares NGO, founded by Manjari Chaitanya, highlighting the issues has got a positive response. Rajneesh stated that she is aligned with ensuring that the chronology of events, as per the ABC rules and Animal Welfare Board of India SOP, is followed. She instructed that dog pick-ups be delayed until the proper procedure is completed and that notifications be made publicly available to animal welfare organisations. She also called her Special Officer to write to AWBI, highlighting that two AWBI-recognised shelters cannot possibly accommodate 2 lakh dogs, and acknowledged that the existing ABC centres are not shelters.

Road near Dodda Alada Mara to be closed for 9 months

South Western Railway has announced a temporary closure of the road connecting Dodda Alada Mara Road via Bengaluru–Mysuru Road near Ramohalli Railway Gate No. 16 for the construction of a Road Under Bridge (RUB). The stretch, located between Kengeri and Hejjala railway stations (Railway Km 17/500–600), will remain inaccessible to commuters for nine months starting December 7.

The project aims to replace the existing level crossing with a dedicated underpass to enhance road safety and ease traffic congestion along the busy corridor. Authorities said the construction is part of ongoing efforts to upgrade railway infrastructure and eliminate potential hazards posed by manned level crossings.

During the closure, the traffic police will implement alternate routes, and motorists have been advised to strictly follow diversion signage and traffic instructions. South Western Railway has appealed to the public for patience and cooperation.

For further assistance or clarification, commuters may contact the Divisional Engineer/ West, South Western Railway, Bengaluru Division. **BMB**

'Lower berths to senior citizens, 45-plus women, if available'

Allotment of lower berths to senior citizens and female passengers of 45 years and above is automatically done, even if no choice is given by passengers, subject to availability, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply on Friday.

Vaishnaw said that earmarking of a combined quota of six to seven lower berths per coach in sleeper class, four to five lower berths per coach each in air-conditioned 3 tier (3AC) and three to four lower berths per coach in air conditioned 2 tier (2AC) classes (depending on the number of coaches of that class in the train) is done for senior citizens, female passengers aged 45 and above and pregnant women.

He said as per provisions of quota for persons with disabilities and their attendants in all mail/express trains, including Rajdhani/Shatabdi type trains, four berths each in sleeper and 3AC/3E class (including two lower and two middle berths) and four seats in reserved second sitting (2S)/air conditioned chair car (CC) are earmarked for them.

According to the minister, if any berth falls vacant in the train, it is allotted to senior citizens, persons with disabilities or pregnant women (who have been allotted middle/upper berth) on priority. **PTI**

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I, Avinash Srinivasamurthy (S Avinash) S/O Srinivasa Murthy K, R/o Amrutha Heights, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066 have changed my name to Aavinash Vanek

I, K Pratyusha W/O, Tallapaka Kiran R/o L407, Mounika Espancia, Horamavu, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to Tallapaka Pratyusha for all purposes

I, Nasrin Malick Saheb, R/at No.93, 3rd Cross, Muslim Colony, K G Halli, Shampur Road, Bangalore-560045 Have Changed My Name To Nasrin, For All Purposes.

I, K A Chetana W/o K S Ashwath, R/o No. 206, 2nd Floor, MBM Classic, BEML Layout, 5th Stage, Rajarajesh wari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560098 have changed my name from Kangondhi Ashwath Chethana to K A Chetana vide affidavit No IN-KA14991471737884X dated 05.12.2025 for all the purpose

I, MANJULA, R/aNo.259, 7th Cross, Chowdeswaramma Temple, Kaverinagar, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru-48. I, have Changed my name to MANJULA VENKATARAMANA, Vide affidavit dated 17 /11/2025 Sworn before Notary Nijagunaradhya T.C Bangalore

I, Ayush Kumar Agarwal S/o Rajesh Kumar Agarwal R/o H.No 36,Sunland Serene Hills, Kaggalipura, B'luru 560082 have changed my name to Ayush Agarwal

HIGH COURT

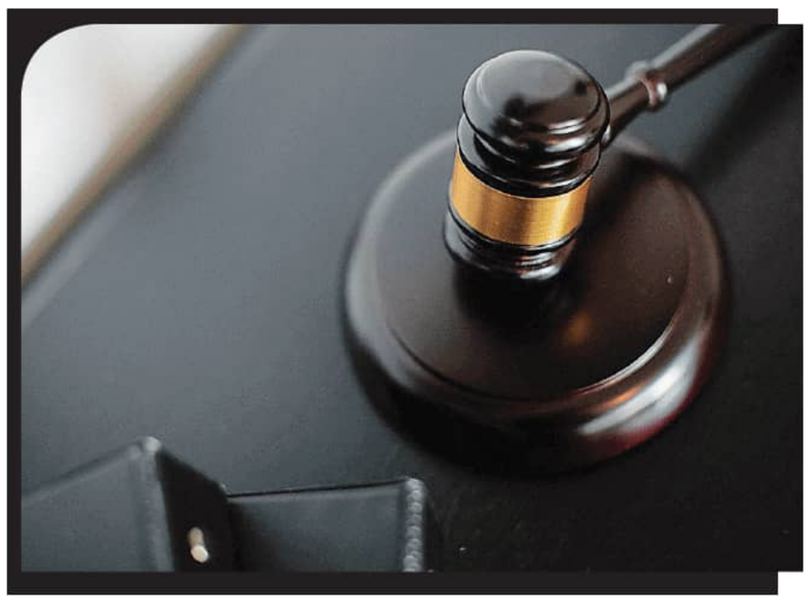
Property dispute: Relief to landowner

Decades-old land dispute ends as court rules school construction must be compensated

The Karnataka High Court has directed the State Government to award compensation to a landowner whose property was used for a school building and public road nearly seven decades ago without being legally acquired.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the order while allowing a petition filed by HP Ramesh, a resident of Haradagere village in Gubbi taluk, Tumakuru district. The court instructed the Government to assess and grant compensation under the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, and to complete the process within three months.

During the proceedings, the State conceded that the



school has stood on the disputed land since 1957. However, it contended that no evidence existed to show that the petitioner's family had objected to the construction or sought compensation at the time. It further suggested—without documentary support—that the building might have been put up with community participation and that the petitioner's father may have allowed the land to be used voluntarily. The State also argued that the claim was time-barred under the 12-year limitation period in the Limitation Act, 1963.

The court rejected these arguments. It noted that the petitioner's father had, in fact, submitted several representations seeking compensation, but the authorities had failed to respond.

"Delay, even extending across half a century, does not diminish the landowner's claim to just compensation when it is admitted by the State that it has, without legal formalities, taken over private land," the court observed.

Justice Nagaprasanna further emphasised that when the Government takes possession of private property—whether through force, oversight, or voluntary surrender—it bears a responsibility to justify that action by ensuring compensation is paid. —BMB

KEA's third round thrown out

Bringing clarity to the fate of nearly 900 vacant undergraduate medical and dental seats for the 2025–26 academic year, a special three-judge bench of the Karnataka High Court has set aside the Karnataka Examinations Authority's (KEA) provisional third-round seat allotment list issued on October 24. The court directed the KEA to redo the entire third round of MBBS and BDS counselling in line with the procedure laid down in its order.

The bench — Justices BM Shyam Prasad, MI Arun and TM Nadaf — delivered a unanimous decision after the matter was escalated to a larger bench due to a split verdict of a division bench on November 19.

As the academic calendar has already passed the admission deadline, the court instructed the National Medical Commission (NMC) to accept the fresh list of students allotted seats through KEA's revised counselling. The KEA has been asked to complete the process by December 17.

The ruling offers partial relief to a group of MBBS aspirants who had challenged the method used by the KEA to distribute seats left vacant in the third round, including those under the management quota. These seats have remained unfilled since October 26, when the court put the allotment process on hold. —BMB

INBRIEF

Rare bird gains digital shield

The Forest Department is developing a dedicated mobile app to monitor the movements and improve the conservation of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB), a bird now surviving in small pockets of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat—and notably, in Siruguppa in Ballari district for the past two decades. Acting on High Court directions, a committee even visited Rajasthan's Jaisalmer National Park in July 2024 to study breeding and conservation models, prompting Karnataka to adopt similar methods through tech-driven monitoring.

Built on the GREIMS platform, the new app will allow frontline staff to upload location data, footprints, sightings, nests, and eggs—creating a single, comprehensive database to support scientific conservation. The department has already deployed 12 trained watchers in Ballari to monitor GIB activity daily, with the app currently in trial use. Plans are underway to eventually make it publicly accessible, enabling citizens to report sightings instantly. Experts note that the bird—often found in grasslands and known as a farmer-friendly species—appears in the Siruguppa–Andhra border region mainly from March to May, while its nesting season, from November to January, keeps it largely hidden. With around 300 acres in Siruguppa identified as key habitat, conservationists believe the new app will play a crucial role in protecting one of India's rarest birds. —BMB

KSCA polls hit by forgery storm

A life member of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) has lodged a criminal complaint with Cubbon Park Police, alleging large-scale forgery, cheating, and manipulation of the KSCA electoral roll ahead of the elections on December 7.

The complainant, VM Manjunath of VV Puram (KSCA Life Member LM-809), who is contesting for the position of Managing Committee Member, claimed that several defunct clubs remain on the voters' list despite being non-operational for years. Manjunath alleged that unknown individuals impersonated former office-bearers of these clubs and submitted fabricated documents, seals, and signatures to claim voting rights illegally. He named multiple clubs suspected of involvement, including NGEF Sports Association, Ideal Jawa Sports Club, BGML, Mafatlal Plywood Industry Sports Club, and Kirloskar Recreation Club.

Describing the matter as an "organised attempt to fraudulently influence elections," Manjunath requested police to file an FIR under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including forgery, cheating, use of forged documents, misappropriation, and criminal conspiracy. He also urged police to notify the Chief Electoral Officer and prevent suspected fraudulent voters from participating. Police officials stated that an inquiry is underway; the complaint was lodged three days ago. Further action will follow based on the inquiry's findings. — BMB

SOCIALTATTLE

That went viral
A video of a small cow in an autorickshaw was posted by a Thailand model Pablo Garcia, known online as Pgsencio, on Instagram which soon went viral. People commented saying, "Welcome to India"

This is not Bangalore, its still 2.5 hours away.
Mike Horton @mikeahorton · 4d
Arrived Bangalore and very excited
1:39 pm · 01 Dec 25 · 1.4M Views

What's Tweeting
An American tech entrepreneur with user name @mikeahorton posted his picture saying he was "very excited" to be in Bengaluru after landing at the airport and soon received a reality check on social media. 'Bangalore is still 2.5 hours away', for which he said, 'Good point'.

Bangalore Mirror tagged
A user @scorpion_nov_07, tagged Bangalore Mirror, mentioned that the road in Chikkagubbi at the Radiance Construction stretch has been dug in a manner permitting only one vehicle at a time, leading to severe traffic jams. As a result, traffic has spilled over to Vijay Vittal Engineering College Road, which is now also choked.

@scorpion_nov_07
Follow
@BangaloreMirror in Chikkagubbi at Radiance construction, road is dug in such a way at a time one vechile can go leads to severe traffic jam and because of this people started taking vijay vital engg. College road that is also packed now

Far-right extremists have been organising online since before the internet – and AI is their next frontier

From a place of hate

How can society police the global spread of online far-right extremism while still protecting free speech? That's a question policymakers and watchdog organizations confronted as early as the 1980s and '90s – and it hasn't gone away.

Decades before artificial intelligence, Telegram and white nationalist Nick Fuentes' livestreams, far-right extremists embraced the early days of home computing and the internet. These new technologies offered them a bastion of free speech and a global platform. They could share propaganda, spew hatred, incite violence and gain international followers like never before.

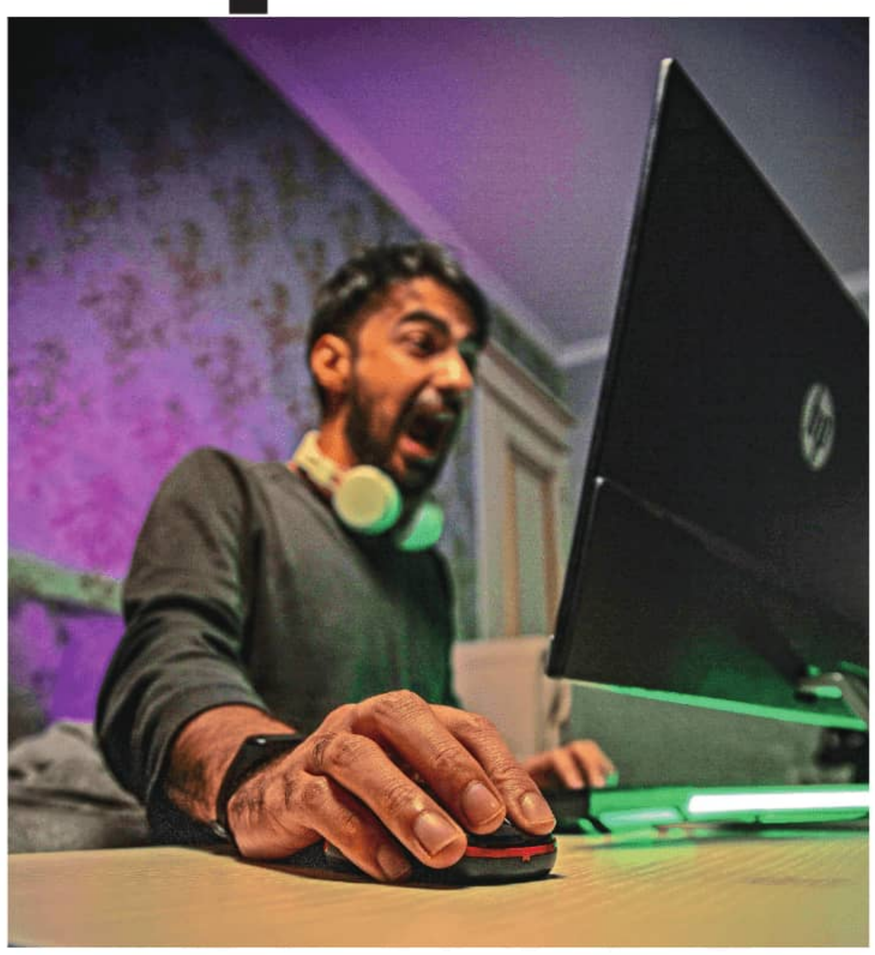
Before the digital era, far-right extremists radicalised each other primarily using print propaganda. They wrote their own newsletters and reprinted far-right tracts such as Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and American neo-Nazi William Pierce's "The Turner Diaries," a dystopian work of fiction describing a race war. Then, they mailed this propaganda to supporters at home and abroad.

I'm a historian who studies neo-Nazis and far-right extremism. As my research shows, most of the neo-Nazi propaganda confiscated in Germany from the 1970s through the 1990s came from the United States. American neo-Nazis exploited their free speech under the First Amendment to bypass German censorship laws. German neo-Nazis then picked up this print propaganda and distributed it throughout the country.

This strategy wasn't foolproof, however. Print propaganda could get lost in the mail or be confiscated. Producing and shipping it was also expensive and time-consuming, and far-right organisations were chronically understaffed and strapped for cash.

Going digital

Computers, which entered the mass market in 1977, promised to help resolve these problems. In 1981, Matt Koehl, head of the National Socialist White People's Party in the United States, solicited donations to "Help the Party Enter The Computer Age." The American neo-Nazi Harold Covington begged for a printer, scanner and "serious PC" that could run WordPerfect word processing software. "Our multifarious enemies already possess this technology," he noted, referring to Jews and government officials.



Combating online hate is a global imperative. It requires comprehensive international cooperation among governments, nongovernmental organisations, watchdog organisations, communities and tech corporations

Soon, far-right extremists figured out how to connect their computers to one another. They did so by using online bulletin board systems, or BBSes, a precursor to the internet. A BBS was hosted on a personal computer, and other computers could dial in to the BBS using a modem and a terminal software program, allowing users to exchange messages, documents and software.

With BBSes, anyone interested in accessing far-right propaganda could simply turn on their computer and dial in to an organisation's advertised phone number. Once connected, they could read the organization's public posts, exchange messages and upload and download files.

The first far-right bulletin board system, the Aryan Nations Liberty Net, was established in 1984 by Louis Beam, a high-ranking member of the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations. Beam explained: "Imagine, if you can, a single computer to which all leaders and strategists of the patriotic movement are connected. Imagine further that any patriot in the country is able to tap into this computer at will in order to reap the benefit of all accumulative knowledge and wisdom of the leaders. 'Someday,' you may say? How about today?"

Then came violent neo-Nazi computer games

Arrival of the web

By the mid-1990s, with the introduction of the more user-friendly World Wide Web, bulletin boards fell out of favor. The first major racial hate website on the internet, Stormfront, was founded in 1995 by the American white supremacist Don Black. The civil rights organisation Southern Poverty Law Center found that almost 100 murders were linked to Stormfront. By 2000, the German government had discovered, and banned, over 300 German websites with right-wing content – a tenfold increase within just four years.

In response, American white supremacists again exploited their free speech rights to bypass German censorship bans. They gave international far-right extremists the opportunity to host their websites safely on unregulated American servers – a strategy that continues today.

Up next: AI

The next frontier for far-right extremists is AI. They are using AI tools to create targeted propaganda, manipulate images, audio and videos, and evade detection. The far-right social network Gab created a Hitler chatbot that users can talk to. AI chatbots are also adopting the far-right views of social media users. Grok, the chatbot on Elon Musk's X, recently called itself "MechaHitler," spewed antisemitic hate speech and denied the Holocaust.

Countering extremism

Combating online hate is a global imperative. It requires comprehensive international cooperation among governments and other stakeholders. Far-right extremists have long pioneered innovative ways to exploit technological progress and free speech. Efforts to counter this radicalisation are challenged to stay one step ahead of the far right's technological advances.

(Michelle Lynn Kahn, University of Richmond, The Conversation)

Indian Railways rolls out AI system to prevent elephant collision, tenders 981 RKms

Indian Railways has deployed an Artificial Intelligence-enabled intrusion detection system to detect elephants on tracks across route kilometres (RKms) of the Northeast Frontier Railway and prevent collisions, the government said on Friday.

Further, Indian Railways has awarded tenders covering a further 981 RKms to scale up AI intrusion detection across Indian Railways, the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The AI system uses a Distributed Acoustic System for detecting the presence of elephants and is designed to generate real-time alerts for loco pilots, station masters and the Control Room about elephant movement, for timely preventive action and loss of lives of the precious wildlife, the statement said.

Elephants are frequently hit by trains especially in Eastern and Central states like Assam, West Bengal, and Odisha, due to the necessity of railways cutting through vital forest corridors, resulting in unnecessary deaths that would be preventable in the future with the aid of this new system.

IANS

BITS & BYTES

SHEIN: FRANCE BLINKS

France demanded on Friday a series of measures from Shein to prove products sold on its website comply with the law, but backed off from its earlier push for a three-month full suspension of the online platform over the sale of childlike sex dolls and banned weapons.

In a Paris court hearing, a lawyer for the state said Shein must put controls in place on its website, including age verification and filtering. They asked the court to enforce the suspension of its marketplace until Shein has shown evidence of such controls to French communications regulator Arcom. **Reuters**

CLOUDFLARE IS BACK

Internet infrastructure company Cloudflare on Friday said it had restored services following an outage that took place in the morning and brought down several global websites including LinkedIn, Zoom and others, the second such crash to affect the company in less than three weeks. Cloudflare said the issue had been resolved and was not due to an attack. A change to how its firewall handles requests "caused Cloudflare's network to be unavailable for several minutes this morning," the company said.

It said it was "investigating issues with Cloudflare Dashboard and related APIs," or application programming interface that allow software systems to communicate with each other. **AP**

THREAT NOTIFICATIONS

Apple has sent a new round of cyber threat notifications to users in 84 countries, the company said on Friday, announcing its latest efforts to insulate customers against surveillance threats.

Apple is one of several tech companies that regularly issue warnings to users when it determines they may have been targeted by state-backed hackers. Apple's statement, which said the warnings were issued on December 2, carried few further details about the alleged surveillance and did not address questions about the number of users targeted or say who was thought to be carrying out the surveillance. **Reuters**

HEALTH TIP: Green apple juice supports lung health; during pandemics, daily green apples can help keep your lungs protected

Apple cider vinegar's antifungal properties help treat ringworm effectively when applied directly to the infected skin

SWEET PAIN

Doctors advise couples facing fertility issues to curb festive sugar intake

This festive season doctors are advising couples dealing with fertility issues to keep their sugar intake in check. Deeming excessive intake during festive season as an overlooked contributor, doctors are raising caution over small indulgences that can easily turn into a habit.

Sugar's hidden impact on male fertility

According to Dr Priya S P Patil, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Laparoscopic Surgeon, and Infertility Specialist at Altius Hospital, sugar's impact on reproduction—especially male fertility—remains underestimated.

"As gynaecologists, we often focus on the woman during infertility work-ups, but nearly 40–50% of cases involve male factors. One of the most overlooked contributors—especially during the festive season—is excess sugar intake," she said.

High sugar levels, she explained, increase oxidative stress in the body, directly damaging sperm DNA, reducing motility and raising the proportion of abnormal sperm. Festive overindulgence can also disturb hormonal balance, reducing testosterone levels, libido and sperm maturation.

Dr Patil added that men with insulin resistance or diabetes are particularly vulnerable. "They are more prone to erectile dysfunction due to compromised blood vessels and nerve health—affecting sexual performance and the frequency of intercourse, which is a key factor in conception."

Chronic excessive sugar consumption may also impair the epididymis—the organ where sperm acquire motility—resulting in sluggish sperm despite normal sperm counts. Seminal fluid quality can decline as well, affecting sperm survival within the female reproductive tract.

Effects often reversible with lifestyle changes

Despite the risks, Dr Patil noted that the damage is not always permanent. Mindful eating during festivals, regular exercise, weight management and timely health screening can significantly improve sperm quality and overall reproductive health.

Short-Term indulgence vs long-term damage

Dr Manjunath, Deputy Medical Director at Birla Fertility and IVF, agreed that occasional festive sweets are unlikely to cause infertility. However, he warned that unchecked long-term high sugar intake can steadily compromise fertility.

"Excessive sugar elevates oxidative stress, harms sperm DNA, lowers motility and disrupts hormonal balance, including testosterone regulation," he said. Sustained intake of high-glycaemic foods can impair sperm function and contribute to low fertility in couples.

Diets loaded with refined carbohydrates are also linked to weight gain and metabolic disturbances—factors frequently associated with poorer semen parameters.

"A balanced, antioxidant-rich diet, moderation in sugar and healthy lifestyle habits collectively help protect long-term fertility potential," he added.

How sugar affects female fertility

Speaking on women's reproductive health, Dr Manjunath said high sugar intake can disrupt hormonal and metabolic balance, with direct implications for ovulation and conception.

Frequent blood-sugar spikes elevate insulin levels, which may interfere with ovulation and contribute to conditions like polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). Excess sugar also fuels inflammation and oxidative stress, affecting egg quality and the uterine environment.

Consumption of refined carbohydrates can trigger weight gain and impaired glucose tolerance—both associated with reduced fertility and lower conception success rates.

Maintaining stable blood-sugar levels through balanced nutrition supports healthier ovulation, better egg development and a more conducive reproductive environment, he said.

Moderation is key, say experts

Doctors emphasise that festive treats need not be entirely avoided. Instead, moderation, timely exercise and sustained dietary discipline can help couples preserve their reproductive health while still enjoying seasonal celebrations. **—BMB**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Do missing words mean missing experiences? The language-thought debate explained

If you speak a language other than English, you have probably noticed how some words resist precise translation. A Japanese designer praising an object's shibui—a quality of simple yet timeless elegance—may find English frustratingly inadequate. Danish hygge captures a distinctive sense of coziness that has inspired entire books attempting to explain it. Portuguese speakers often struggle to convey saudade, a blend of yearning, wistfulness, and melancholy. Welsh speakers face an even tougher challenge with hiraeth, a word that deepens this longing with a specifically cultural and historical ache tied to Celtic identity.

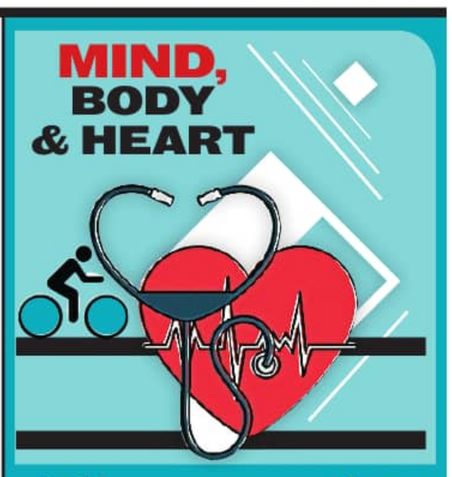
These seemingly untranslatable words point toward a longstanding debate in linguistics: do the languages we speak shape the way we think? This question sits at the heart of the theory of "linguistic relativity," also known as the Sapir–Whorf hypothesis. The American linguist Edward Sapir argued in 1929 that languages "index" the cultural patterns of their speakers. In other words, if Danish speakers experience hygge, they naturally develop a word for it; if English speakers lack such a term, perhaps they do not experience the concept in quite the same way.

Sapir went further, suggesting that people are "at the mercy" of their languages. This stronger interpretation—often referred to as linguistic determinism—implies that English speakers might be unable to experience hygge in the same way Danes do. The absence of a word, under this view, signals an absence of the concept itself: a gap in our cognitive or emotional experience.

Few linguistic theories have attracted as much controversy. Sapir's student Benjamin Lee Whorf famously argued in 1940 that because the Hopi language did not mark verb tenses in the same way as English, its speakers had a fundamentally different "psychic experience" of time. His claim was later dismantled by scholars who produced nearly 400 pages of evidence showing Hopi expressions for "today," "January," and clear distinctions between past, present, and future.

Another well-known Whorfian example is the claim that Inuit languages have dozens—or even fifty—words for snow. Though Whorf himself suggested a much smaller number, later scholars argued that the count could be considered both too high and too low, depending on how one defines a "word."

More recently, linguist Daniel Everett sparked debate by claiming the Amazonian Pirahã language lacks recursion—the ability to embed one sentence within another—a feature long believed to be universal in human language. **—The Conversation**



All you need to know about...

Clean water

Delivery, localised treatment

Localised treatment of water and doorstep delivery is a highly cost-effective way of enabling near universal adoption of clean drinking water in India, according to a new study by the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute (EPIC).

Study

The researchers conduct a randomised controlled trial in Odisha, covering 60,000 households in 120 villages. According to the study, more than 2 billion people lack reliable sources of safe drinking water, with only 14 per cent of rural households in low-and middle-income countries enjoying tap water in their homes. Even when the pipes do exist, the water it provides is often just as contaminated as local ground- and surface-water sources.

Public health challenge

As such, universal access to clean water remains one of the world's most pressing public health challenges. The study proposed an inexpensive, effective and simple solution — localised treatment of water coupled with doorstep delivery. "Our research shows that the goal of providing tasteless and safe drinking water that is also convenient to access can be achieved without relying on expensive pipe infrastructure," said study co-author Fiona Burlig, Harris School of Public Policy.

Sustainable approach

"The approach we tested appears to be economically sustainable, with people willing to pay more than previously thought, and it delivered measurable health benefits for a population where waterborne diseases remain a significant threat," she added. At low prices, about 90% of households chose to order clean water, a number far above the 40–50% take-up rates of alternatives such as chlorine tablets — which have proved persistently unpopular even when given away, perhaps because of taste and inconvenience. **—Femina**

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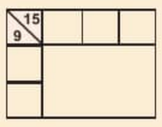
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

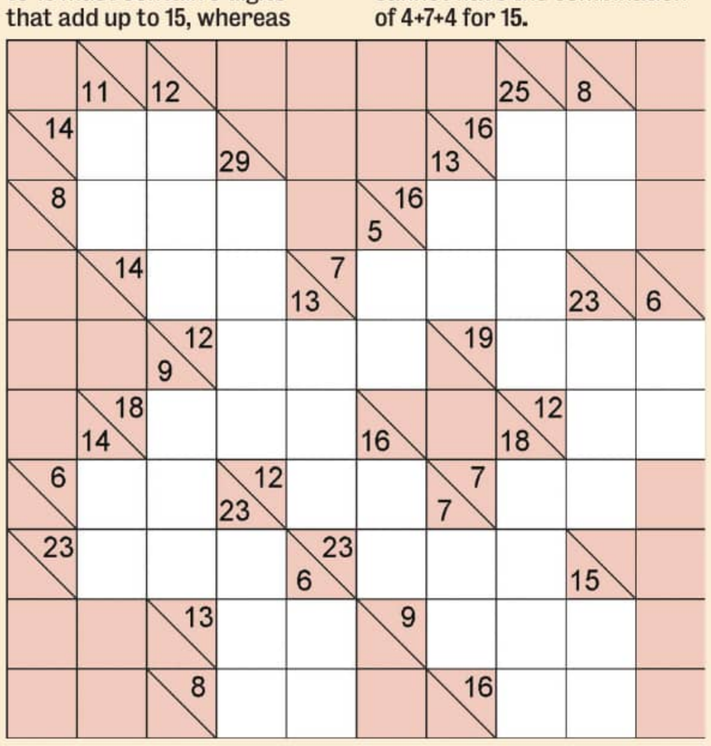
Two 6-sided dice are rolled. The sum of the 2 top numbers showing is 3. What is the sum of the 2 numbers on the 2 bottom sides?

Kakuro

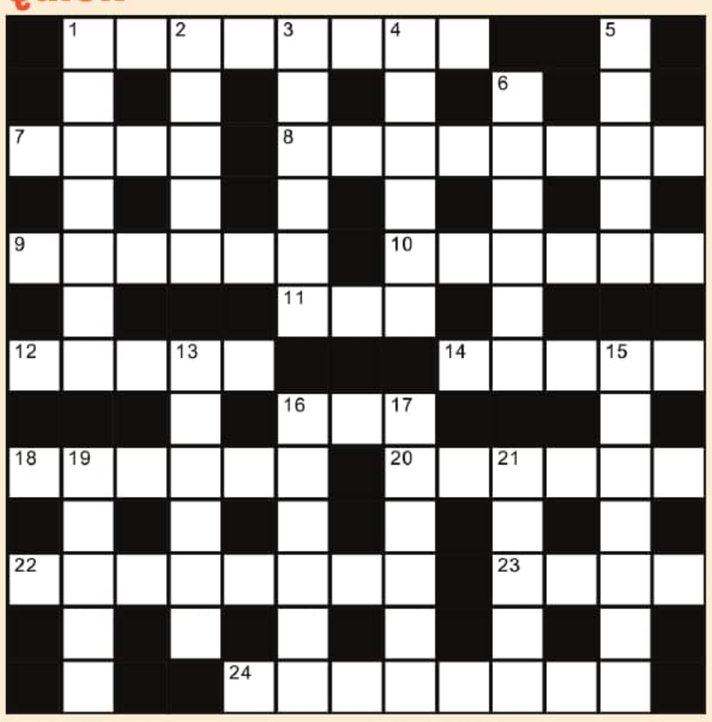
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Conceal; slow down the progress of (4,4)
7 Popular pub in Indira Nagar (4)
8 Personification of the US government (5,3)
9 Dreaded (6)
10 Sprang (6)
11 Feminine pronoun (3)
12 Ex-India batsman Mankad (5)
13 Not perfectly circular? (6)
14 Violent surprise (5)
15 Behaviour (7)
16 Current fashion or craze (3)
17 Pass through a sieve? (6)
18 It sounds cold but it is hot to taste ? (6)
19 Boos or jeers? (5)
20 One of the four possible in a test match? (6)
21 Scandinavian? (5)
22 First rate, colloquially speaking? (3-5)
23 Disastrous defeat (4)
24 A rate of inclination or slope? (8)

DOWN

1 You may spend them in Oslo, perhaps (7)
2 Go in (5)
3 Leaps or jumps (6)
4 Chatter noisily (6)
5 Reduce speed (5)
6 Change of "phrase" for a celestial being? (6)
13 Not perfectly circular? (6)
15 Behaviour (7)
16 Pass through a sieve? (6)
17 ____ out : distributed carelessly and indiscriminately? (6)
19 Boos or jeers? (5)
21 Scandinavian? (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS D

BYZ OYD'M DTTO W QFKNTP SYPJ MY TWM UYYO SYYO.

Linemaro

Are you a keyboard? Because you are just my type

Mind chow

It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well.

Joke of the day

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says, "That's the ugliest baby that I've ever seen. Ugh!" The woman goes to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to a man next to her, "The driver just insulted me!" The man says, "You go right up there and tell him off – go ahead, I'll hold your monkey for you."

Loop

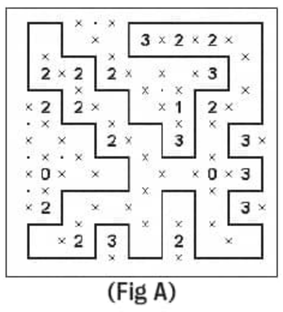
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

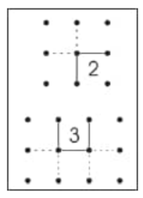
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

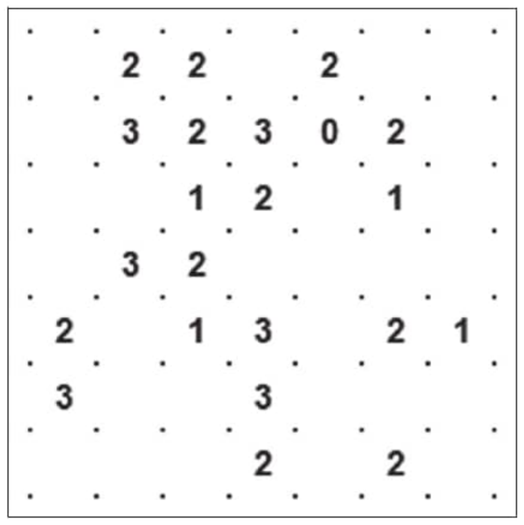
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



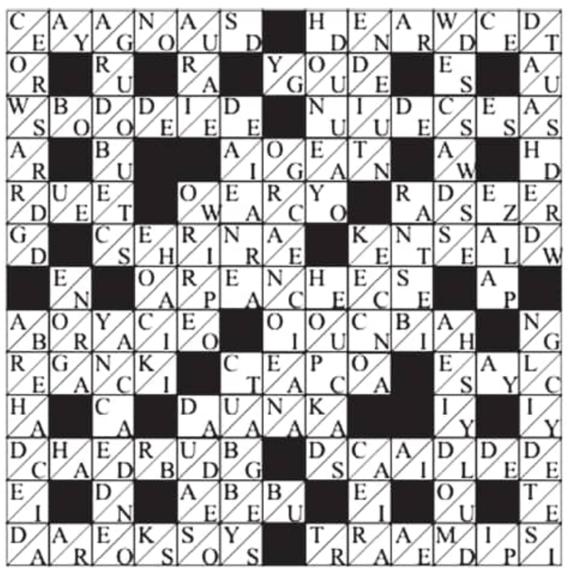
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



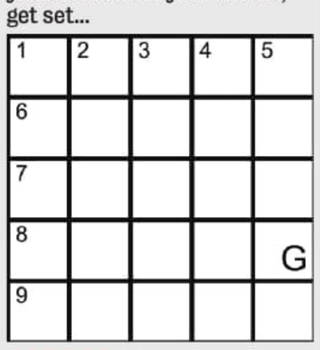
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Hards; 6 Weird; 7 Or sea; 8 Barge; 9 Worst

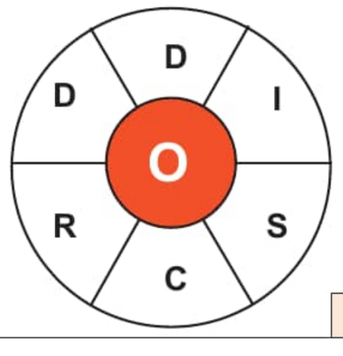
DOWN

1 Straw; 2 Err hi; 3 Boa do; 4 Wears; 5 Dr Ges

Mensapuzzle

Which letter goes into the last square of the bottom grid?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; **03** Good; **04** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2		7		5		8	
				4				
	5	3	1		8	9	7	
5	3						1	7
				8				
1	8						6	3
	7	8	2		3	1	9	
				1				
	6		4		9		2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

3 3 4 9

Medium = 8

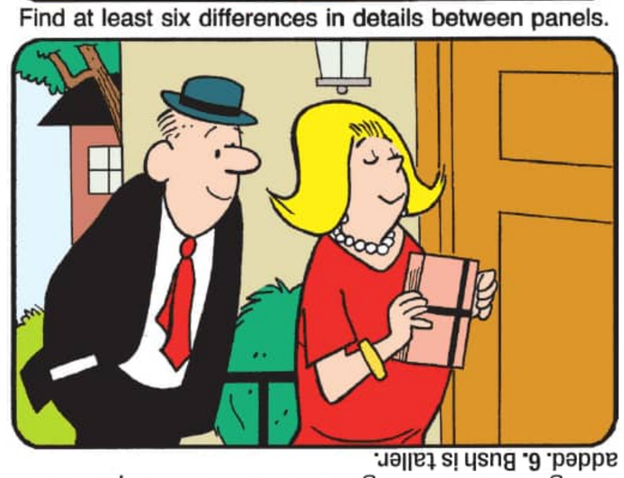
9 7 4 3

Hard = 26

3 5 6 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



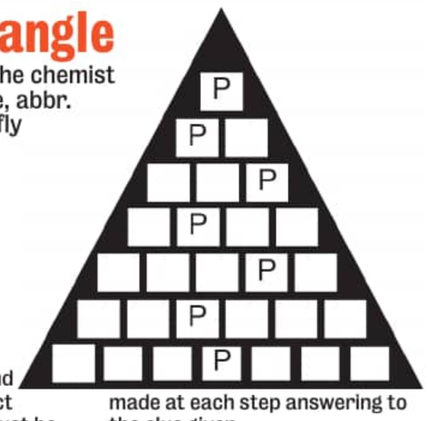
Differences: 1. Ribbon is different. 2. Hair is different. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Light is moved. 5. Windowpanes are added. 6. Bush is taller.

Riddler

Shoe, door, sticks, straight. What word comes next?

Alpha triangle

1 Phosphorus for the chemist
2 Physical Exercise, abbr.
3 Sixth sense, briefly
4 Made tracks
5 Ocean features
6 Saw
7 Hate profoundly

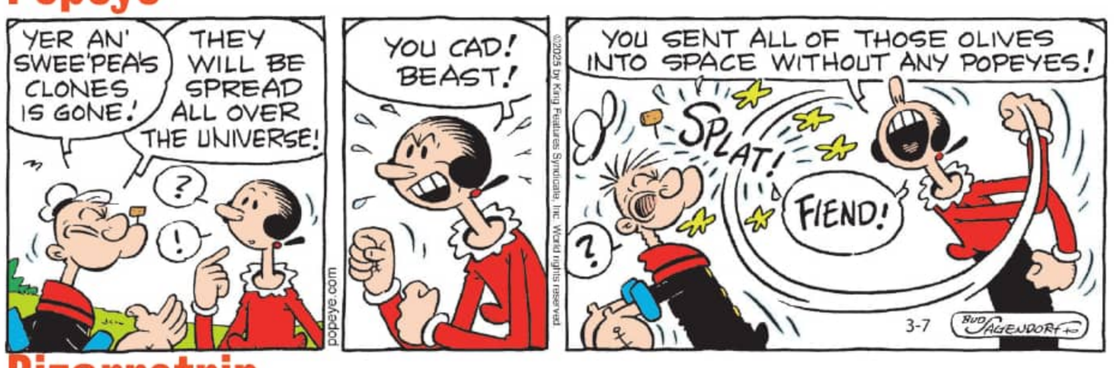


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YER AN' SWEE'PEA'S CLONES IS GONE!
THEY WILL BE SPREAD ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE!
YOU CAD! BEAST!
YOU SENT ALL OF THOSE OLIVES INTO SPACE WITHOUT ANY POPEYES!
SPLAT!
FIEND!
3-7
BUD SAGENDORF
popeye.com
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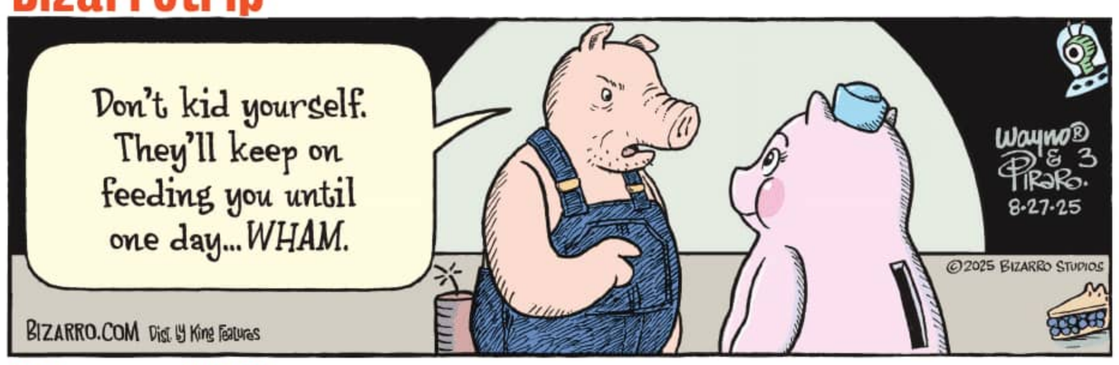
Bizarrotrip


Don't kid yourself. They'll keep on feeding you until one day... WHAM.
Wayno & Piraro 8.27.25
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
BIZARRO.COM Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

I TRIED THE DESSERT AT THAT NEW PLACE
IT'S CALLED THE LOUSY TENNIS PLAYER CAFE
WHAT DID YOU HAVE?
THE SOFT SERVE
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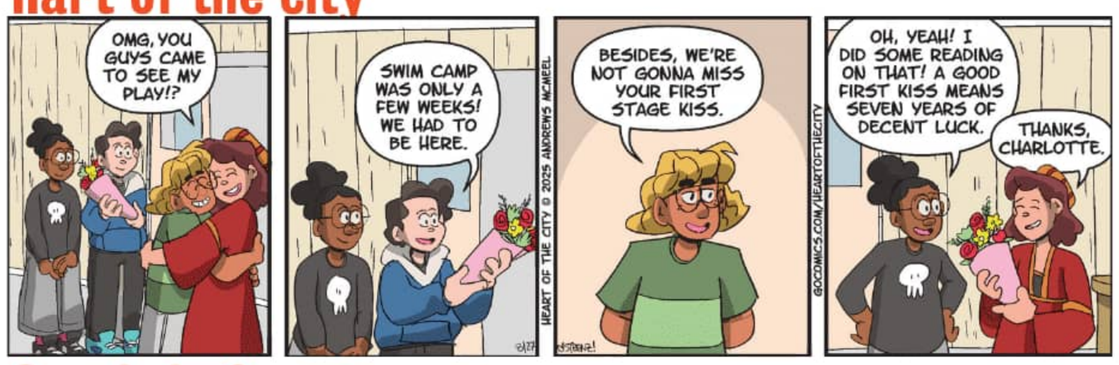
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


OMG, YOU GUYS CAME TO SEE MY PLAY!?
SWIM CAMP WAS ONLY A FEW WEEKS! WE HAD TO BE HERE.
BESIDES, WE'RE NOT GONNA MISS YOUR FIRST STAGE KISS.
OH, YEAH! I DID SOME READING ON THAT! A GOOD FIRST KISS MEANS SEVEN YEARS OF DECENT LUCK.
THANKS, CHARLOTTE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

FINE! STAY UNDER THE BED ALL DAY FOR ALL I CARE... BUT I'M NOT SERVING YOU MEALS UNDER THERE!
NO PROBLEM... I'VE COVERED IT.
WHEN THEY SAID THE DELIVERY WAS TO A GUY UNDER A BED, I THOUGHT THEY WERE JOKING!
GRUBHUB
8-27
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
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Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

An influential connection from your past reappears, bringing a surprise invitation or opportunity for collaboration. Archers thrive on diverse viewpoints, so welcome this interaction with an open mind, even if it seems tangential to your main goals. Your future success hinges on weaving together disparate threads into one strong tapestry.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

You've long played by the rules, but conformity no longer excites you. Craving independence, you're ready to pursue passions fearlessly. Build a life that's both creatively fulfilling and financially rewarding now.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Focus on your longterm goals today, but avoid risky enquiries, timing isn't right. Emotions run high, so stay composed. Wearing black empowers you, shielding against negativity while restoring your determination beautifully.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Showcase your hidden brilliance today, it'll impress everyone. Students earn recognition for outstanding work. Participate in charitable acts to balance karma. Wearing yellow attracts optimism and positive opportunities.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

A playful prank might backfire today, tread lightly. Future uncertainties may cause stress, but stay calm. Legal matters improve favourably soon. Wearing orange enhances positivity, bringing warmth, stability, and renewed emotional balance.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Today favours partnerships, personally or professionally. A loved one encourages lifestyle changes, perhaps fitness or nutrition. Accept their guidance with gratitude.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Fresh ideas spark inspiration today, professionally or personally. Spend quality time with loved ones who truly care. A talented woman enters your orbit, guiding and motivating you toward holistic self-improvement.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Step beyond comfort zones today, growth awaits. Be cautious while driving, avoiding distractions. Professionally, positive feedback arrives from superiors. Spend time outdoors to recharge, clear your mind, and boost overall well-being.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Engaging conversations keep you lively today. Avoid workplace arguments, they'll only cause regret. Those living away may travel home happily. Wearing white brings serenity, healing energy, and emotional balance throughout the day.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Trust your intuition completely, it's razor sharp today. Romance deepens as you and your partner cherish togetherness. Express affection freely. Wearing yellow keeps you joyful, magnetic, and vibrant from dawn to dusk.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Spontaneous social invites arrive, embracing flexibility. Be cautious trusting charming strangers; appearances deceive. Wearing orange radiates joy and protection, helping you attract happiness.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

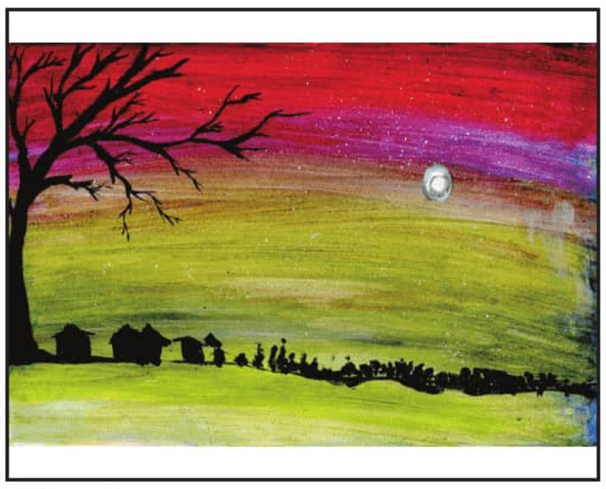
Expect surprises today, stay adaptable and dress sharply. You might meet your soulmate unexpectedly! Seek legal counsel if needed, and manage workplace stress carefully to protect health and mental balance.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

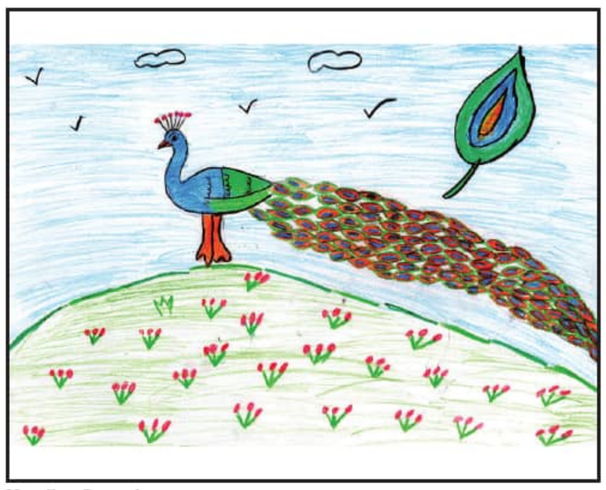
Avoid messy situations today. Opt for splitting expenses, it'll save resources. Children need extra care and focus now. Wearing blue keeps your energy cool, calm, and emotionally balanced all day.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Virat, Bengaluru



Mugdha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER

Hen. The words are the last in each phrase from the children's nursery rhyme. One, two, buckle my shoe; Three, four, Shut the door; Five, six, Pick up sticks; Seven, eight, Lay them straight: Nine, ten, A big, fat hen;

SOLVE IN 1M

5+6=11; 6+5=11; Possible top: 1 and 2; The opposite sides add up to 7, so 6 and 5. the sum of the numbers in the bottom sides is 11.

FAST FIVE

S	H	A	R	D
W	I	D	E	R
A	R	O	S	E
R	E	B	A	G
T	R	O	W	S

STRIKE OUT

D	R	E	S	S	Y		T	R	A	M	P	S		
E		D		E	B	B	I		U		E			
C	H	E	R	U	B		S	A	I	L	E	D		
A		C		D	A	N	K		Y		I			
R	A	C	K		T	A	C	O		S	A	L		
B	R	A	C	E		I	O	N	I	A		G		
E		A	P	A	C	H	E	S		P				
D	S	H	I	N	E		K	N	E	A	D			
A	U		I	G	E	T		A		H				
W	O	O	D	E	D		N	I	E	C	E	S		
O	R		R		G	O	D		E		A			
C	H	E	R	U	B		S	A	I	L	E	D		
A		C		D	A	N	K		Y		I			
R	A	C	K		T	A	C	O		S	A	L		
B	R	A	C	E		I	O	N	I	A		G		
E		A	P	A	C	H	E	S		P				
D	S	H	I	N	E		K	N	E	A	D			
A	U		I	G	E	T		A		H				
W	O	O	D	E	D		N	I	E	C	E	S		
O	R		R		G	O	D		E		A			
C	Y	G	N	U	S		H	E	A	D	E	D		

QUICK

		S			G	R	A	D	I	E	N	T		
		T		G		E		E		S		C		
T	O	O	P	N	O	T	C	H		R	O	U	T	
O		O		O		L		S		O		D		
C	H	I	L	L	I		I	N	N	I	N	G		
B		F	A	D						O				
A	S	H	O	K		S	H	O	C	K				
R					S	H	E		P					
F	E	A	R	E	D		L	E	A	P	E	D		
N		E		N		K		R		K				
T	O	I	T		U	N	C	L	E	S	A	M		
R		N		O		A		S		R				
K	E	E	P	B	A	C	K		B					

BULL'S EYE

cord, disco, DISCORD, sordid

QUOTE UNCODE

You don't need a silver fork to eat good food.

MENSA PUZZLE

U. In each row, add the numerical value of the left and centre letters to give the right hand letter.

SUDOKU

3	6	1	4	5	9	7	2	8
2	9	5	8	1	7	3	4	6
4	7	8	2	6	3	1	9	5
1	8	9	5	7	2	4	6	3
7	4	6	3	8	1	2	5	9
5	3	2	6	9	4	8	1	7
6	5	3	1	2	8	9	7	4
8	1	7	9	4	6	5	3	2
9	2	4	7	3	5	6	8	1

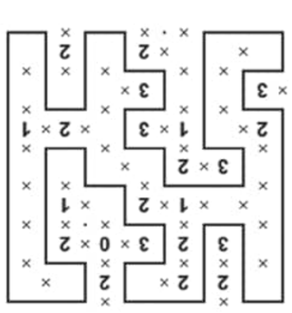
ALPHA TRIANGLE

P, PE, ESp, Sped, Deeps, Espied, Despise.

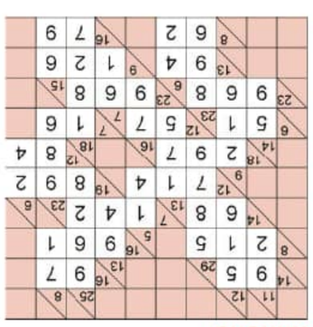
GO FIGURE

Easy
9-3 + 3 + 4 = 13
Medium
7 x 3-9-4 = 8
Hard
7 x 5-6-3 = 26

LOOP



KAKURO



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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Unique pre-release event

The team of multilingual and mega-budget movie 45 is busy with preparations for the pre-release event on December 15, billed as first of its kind not only in Karnataka but in the country, for the promotion of the movie scheduled for release on December 25.

"The pre-release event will be screened at seven districts apart from Bengaluru. Leading actors Dr Shivarajkumar, Upendra, and Raj B Shetty will reach out to the audiences in seven districts. We are selecting theaters in the districts for a live-screening of the event," said director Arjun Janya.

Navarasan of MMB Legacy said technicians are being hired from Chennai. "All measures will be taken to ensure the grand success of the pre-release event. Trial runs will be held before the event," he said.

Producer Ramesh Reddy said he is backing the film because he wants to promote culture. "Computer graphics took more time and we are also particular about quality. I am sure audiences will understand the reason for the delay when the watch the film," he said.

New kid on the block

The first show of the First Salary, a short film directed by Pavan Venkatesh, the son of Sudheendra Venkatesh, a well-known public relations officer in Sandalwood was held at MMB Legacy. Veteran producer Rockline Venkatesh, senior actress Shruthi, and Kaamalakar were the guests of honour at the screening of the film supported by Sudheendra Venkatesh.

The movie highlights the bond between a mother and son. It narrates the tale of the son's struggle to get a job and buy ear studs for his mother with his first salary.

Rockline Venkatesh appreciated Pavan Venkatesh and cast and crew.

Shruthi recalled how she made her debut as a heroine in Nagunaguthaa Nali bankrolled by DV Sudheendra. "Now, Sudheendra Venkatesh has bankrolled the movie. I was in tears while watching the emotional scenes of the movie. My first remuneration, as an actress, was Rs 500," Shruthi said.

Thanking the guests, producer Sudheendra Venkatesh said his uncle late DV Sudheendra was a co-producer for six Kannada movies. "I agreed to support this movie when my son Pavan and his friends approached me. I am very happy the movie has turned out well," he said. Pavan Venkatesh thanked all the guests.

SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND

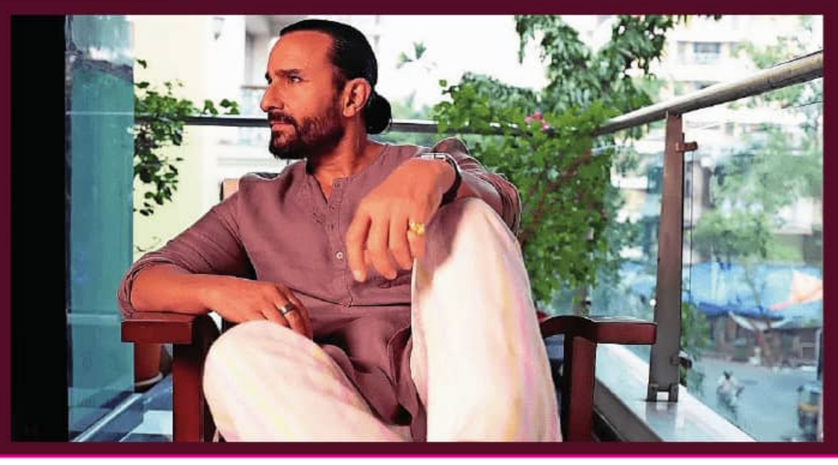
Who were the celebs Indians searched for the most in 2025?

Google India recently published its Year In Search 2025 report. Ranked in order of how many people were searching for those subjects, two people's deaths were included in the top ten most searched news stories. Veteran actor Dharmendra passed away on November 24, while pop culture figure Shefali Jariwala passed away on June 27. **— ETimes**

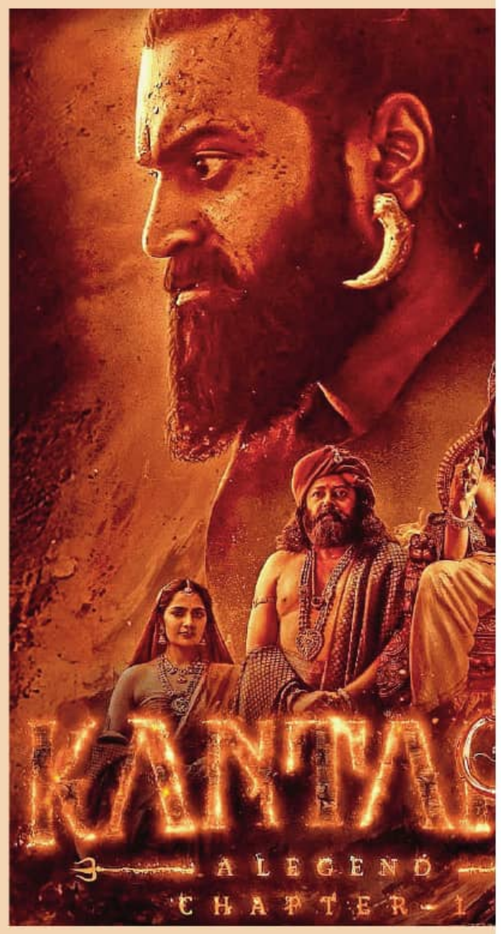
Dharmendra
The death of Dharmendra on November 24, 2025 marked the final chapter of an era for Indian cinema. He was the original "He-Man" of Bollywood; he had been around for more than six decades. His film career produced classic films such as Sholay, Seeta Aur Geeta, Chupke Chupke, and Dharam Veer. Once the news broke about his passing, many people around the globe began to pay tribute to Dharmendra via social media and other channels. Millions of people searched for the latest news about him on Google, including their fondest memories of him as well as archival footage and interviews.

Shefali Jariwala
The unexpected death of Shefali Jariwala, who gained popularity due to the viral hit of the remix "Kaanta Laga," shocked many of her fans. After her starring role in the viral hit, she continued her popularity through reality television. Many of her fans who were introduced to her several years after her rise to fame were shocked at her untimely death. The ongoing loss of Shefali has reignited discussions about early 2000s culture (including the pop music video boom), as well as the social pressures that celebrities face.

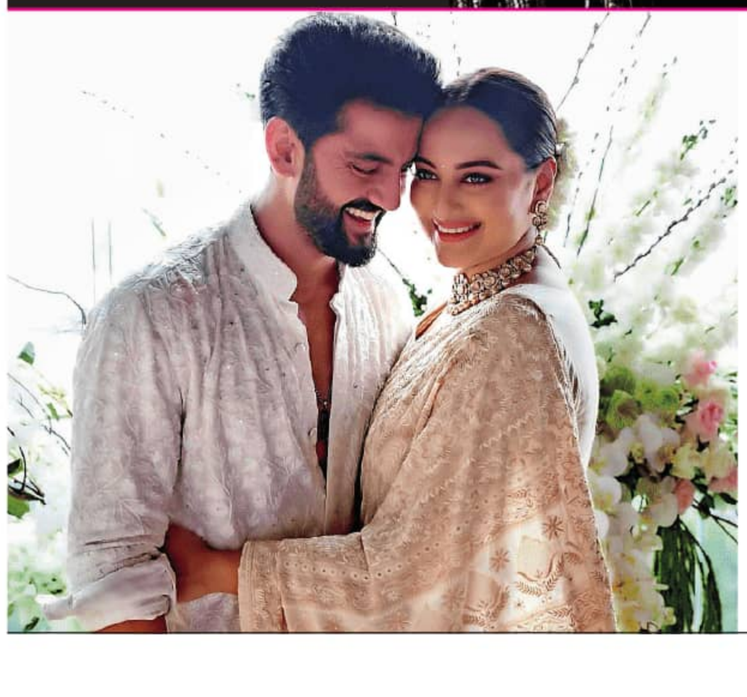
Most searched actors of 2025
Interestingly, Saif Ali Khan topped Google's list of most-searched actors for the year. The rankings also featured debutants Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, whose film 'Saiyaara' dominated the Most Searched Movies List on Google India.



Regional cinema makes its mark



The movie search results were varied with some very notable films across all various industries of Indian Cinema. For example, Tamil film 'Coolie', Telugu film 'Game Changer', Kannada film 'Kantara Chapter One' and Malayalam film 'Marco'; all have made it into the top search results which further illustrate how the consumption habits of regional cinema are changing.



Not a bed of roses

Sonakshi talks about rough patches in her relationship and how she and Zaheer overcame them all

Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal are the internet's most loved couple. The pair share plenty of sweet moments, whether it's glimpses from their day-to-day married life, fun travel vlogs, or candid behind-the-scenes snaps. But behind all the smiles and social media posts, their journey hasn't always been smooth. The couple have been together for eight years, and like any long-term relationship, they have faced their share of ups and downs.

Recently, Sonakshi opened up on Soha Ali Khan's podcast about a particularly challenging phase that led them to try couples therapy, a step that ultimately helped them reconnect and understand each other better.

The 'Dabangg' actress revealed, "Just when we were three years into the relationship, we had a phase where we just wanted to pull each other's hair out. No matter what we did, we just couldn't understand each other's perspective."

The 'Rowdy Rathore' actress added, "But we did know in our hearts that we had to make this work, and we did couples therapy, and it was Zaheer who suggested it. I was open to it, and after two sessions, we were back on track. It helped so much to understand what the other person thinks, and that what they say is not necessarily what they mean." The therapy sessions helped Sonakshi and Zaheer communicate better and understand each other's feelings.

— ETimes